

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W  
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R 121730Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4578  
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL GENOA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7811

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: PSI LEADERSHIP ATTEMPTS TO SMOOTH OVER DIFFERENCES

REF: (A) ROME 3159, (B) ROME 2863

SUMMARY: AT A MAY 11 SOCIALIST (PSI) DIRECTORATE MEETING, DISCUSSION CENTERED ON THE INCREASING DISSENT AND DIVISIONS IN PARTY RANKS. RECENTLY THREE MANCINI-FACTION MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATE RESIGNED THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL POSTS TO PROTEST THE INCREASING EXTREMISM OF PSI RHETORIC, AND CALLS HAVE COME FROM SOME QUARTERS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONGRESS TO CLARIFY THE PARTY LINE. SECRETARY CRAXI ASSUMED THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR AND UNIFIER AT THE MEETING, CALLING FOR TOLERANCE AND OPEN DEBATE WITHIN THE PARTY. A PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25-27. ACCOUNTS OF THE DIRECTORATE MEETING REVEAL DEEP DIVISIONS IN THE PSI AND CRAXI WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO RECONCILE THE PARTY'S MODERATE AND LEFT WINGS.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. ONGOING FACTIONAL STRIFE WITHIN THE PSI HAS SURFACED IN RECENT WEEKS AND WAS THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE MAY 11 MEETING OF THE PARTY DIRECTORATE. THE MEETING WAS REQUESTED BY ANTONIO LANDOLFI, A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT AND FOLLOWER OF EX-PSI PARTY SECRETARY GIACOMO MANCINI, TO EXAMINE "THE BREAKDOWN OF UNITY CAUSED BY EXTREMISM AND SECTARIANISM WITHIN THE PARTY." UNEASINESS AMONG THE

MANCINIANI INCREASED IN THE WAKE OF THE PSI YOUTH FEDERATION CONGRESS IN BOLOGNA, WHERE MANCINI'S FOLLOWERS WERE HOOTED DOWN AND INITIALLY VOTED OUT OF THE FEDERATION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND THE MAY 6-8 WORKERS' CONFERENCE IN TURIN WHERE MANCINIANI WERE ALSO PREVENTED FROM SPEAKING. ALTHOUGH ON BOTH OCCASIONS PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI ATTEMPTED TO INJECT A NOTE OF TOLERANCE AND OPENNESS INTO THE PROCEEDINGS, HE GAVE THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF BEING CARRIED ALONG ON THE LEFTIST WAVE, THEREBY ADDING TO THE FEARS OF THE MANCINIANI. ON MAY 9 THREE MEMBERS OF THE PSI DIRECTORATE, ALL FOLLOWERS OF MANCINI, RESIGNED FROM THEIR DUTIES IN THE PARTY ADMINISTRATION TO PROTEST THE GROWING IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE LEFT IN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE EXTREMISM OF PARTY RHETORIC. FOLLOWERS OF BOTH MANCINI AND EX-PARTY SECRETARY FRANCESCO DE MARTINO HAVE CALLED FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONGRESS TO CLARIFY THE PARTY LINE.

2) AT THE MAY 11 DIRECTORATE MEETING LEFTWING LEADER RICCARDO LOMBARDI AND A NUMBER OF HIS FOLLOWERS CALLED FOR AN EARLY PSI/PCI ACCORD AND RAPID MOVEMENT TOWARD A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT. MANCINI AND DE MARTINO SUPPORTERS WARNED THAT EXTREME, HARDLINE FORMULAS WOULD MAKE THE PSI A FACTOR FOR DESTABILIZATION AND DEMANDED THE PARTY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR AN "EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT" OF ALL PARTIES OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC." MANCINI, WHO HAS BEEN RECOVERING FROM AN ILLNESS IN CALABRIA, CONTRIBUTED INDIRECTLY TO THE DEBATE THROUGH AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED ON MAY 11 IN WHICH HE WARNED THAT

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RADICAL SLOGANS WERE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE "SERIOUS, DIFFICULT, AND RESPONSIBLE POLICIES" WHICH THE PSI NEEDS IN THE PRESENT CRISIS. CRAXI ASSUMED THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR AND UNIFIER, STATING THAT THE PSI HAD A RESPONSIBLE AND IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNAL DEBATE WAS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE PROPER LINE. THOUGH HE OPPOSED THE IDEA OF A HASTILY PREPARED PARTY CONGRESS, CRAXI SUPPORTED A CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. CRAXI WAS SUPPORTED BY DEPUTY PARTY SECRETARY CLAUDIO SIGNORILE OF THE LOMBARDI FACTION AND PAOLO VITTORELLI, EDITOR OF THE PSI DAILY, AVANTIL, AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF DEPUTY PARTY SECRETARY ENRICO MANCA. THE STATEMENT WHICH WAS ISSUED AFTER THE MEETING DOWN-PLAYED THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARTY, REFLECTING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE PSI DELEGATION IN THE INTER-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR SECRETARY CRAXI.

3) COMMENT: IN SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF THE PSI'S LEFT-

WING CRAXI HAS RISKED LOSING THE SUPPORT OF THE GROUPS WHICH ACTIVELY SUPPORTED HIS BID FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP IN JULY, 1976. THOUGH THE INTRA-PARTY DEBATE IS COUCHED IN TERMS OF POLICY AND PHILOSOPHY, THE ISSUE IS POWER WITHIN THE PARTY. CRAXI IS OBVIOUSLY HAVING TROUBLE IN ACHIEVING THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE CONTENDING FACTIONS WHICH HE NEEDS TO KEEP HIMSELF ON TOP. CORRECTING THE IMBALANCE WILL HAVE TO BE HIS FIRST PRIORITY IF HE WISHES TO RETAIN SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER AND ANY MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER THE DIRECTION THE PSI IS TAKING. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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